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Examiner: Bradford F. Fritz

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the Application.

1. (currently amended) A method for providing enhanced conferencing control features in an Internet-based conference solution, comprising the steps of:
 - configuring a member using one or more commands to result in displaying a member icon on a computer screen;
 - storing the configuration for the member into a file;
 - assigning the member as a member administrator using one or more commands; and
 - allowing the member administrator to implement a plurality of first set functions, wherein said first set functions include at least one of a function for implementing Whisper functionality, a function for implementing Create Table functionality, and a function for implementing Create Avatar functionality, wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference, wherein participants of the Avatar conference are must be a subset of participants in the conference, and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of configuring comprises inputting definition and identification information.

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3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of storing comprises storing the member configuration in a database.

4. (previously amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

creating a conference room by the member administrator using one or more commands;

connecting to a server by the member administrator to allow other members to join the conference room using one or more commands; and

selecting certain of the other members by the member administrator to be conference participants in the conference room with the member administrator by using one or more commands; and

commencing communication in the conference room by the member administrator so that the selected certain other members and member administrator are conference participants using one or more commands.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the commands are graphical user interface (GUI) commands.

6. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of creating includes the member administrator selecting a first set secondary function (Room Commence), which is among other first set secondary functions (Room Adjourn, Room Transcribe).

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the first set secondary function (Room Commence) creates and commences communication in the conference room.

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8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein another of the first set secondary functions (Room Adjourn) closes the conference room and ends all communication.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein another of the first set secondary functions (Room Transcribe) allows the member administrator to have the conference communication transcribed.

10. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of connecting allows the member administrator to use a first set dialing function and first set tertiary functions (Phone, Location, IP Address) to access first set tertiary function first elements public branch exchange (PBX) or voice internet protocol (VoIP) gateway.

11. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of commencing communication consists of the member administrator selecting a first set secondary function (Room Commence) to allow communication between the selected certain other members and member administrator in the conference room.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the member administrator may select one of the first set functions (Mute) to mute the member administrator, whereas the selected certain other members as conference participants will not be able to hear the member administrator but the member administrator will be able to hear the selected certain other members as conference participants.

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14. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the member administrator may select one of the first set functions (Whisper) to whisper to a particular selected certain other member, whereas the member administrator and the particular selected certain other member will be able to communicate with each other without other non-particular selected certain other members as conference participants hearing them.

15. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the dialing function is a first set function (Dial) that allows the member administrator to connect to first set tertiary functions (Phone, Location, or IP Address) to access first set tertiary function first elements public branch exchange (PBX) or voice internet protocol (VoIP) gateway.

16. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the member administrator may select one of the first set functions (Create Table) in order to create a table and select itself and a particular selected certain other member as conference participant to invite the particular selected certain other member as conference participant to a table session discussion.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the particular selected certain other member may accept, deny, or block the invitation from the member administrator to a table session discussion.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein when the particular selected certain other member accepts the table invitation, the administrator and the particular selected certain other member may communicate between themselves in the separate table discussion and no other non-particular selected certain other member as conference participant in the conference can

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hear the member administrator and the particular selected certain other member and the particular selected certain other member and member administrator cannot hear the conference.

19. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein when the particular selected certain other member accepts the table invitation, the member administrator and the particular selected certain other member can communicate between themselves in the separate table discussion and no other non-particular selected certain other member as conference participant in the conference can hear the member administrator and the particular selected certain other member but the particular selected certain other member and member administrator can hear and communicate with the conference.

20. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein when the particular selected certain other member denies when invited to the table session, the member administrator is notified of such denial and the particular selected certain other member is not entered in the table session discussion.

21. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein when the particular selected certain other member blocks the table invitation, the member administrator is notified of such block and is blocked, until unblocked by the particular selected certain other member, from sending table invites to the particular selected certain other member and the particular selected certain other member is not entered in the table session discussion.

22. (canceled)

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23. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the bridge function consists of a one way bridge, a two way bridge and an amway bridge.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the one way bridge allows the member administrator and selected certain other members as conference participants in the avatar conference to hear the selected certain other members as conference participants of the conference.

25. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the one way bridge allows the member administrator and the selected certain other members as conference participants of the conference to hear selected certain other members as conference participants in the avatar conference.

26. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the two way bridge allows the member administrator and selected certain other members as conference participants of the avatar conference and member administrator and the selected certain other members as conference participants of the conference to hear each other.

27. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the amway bridge allows the member administrator to choose selected certain other members from the avatar conference as conference participants and choose selected certain other members from the conference as conference participants in order that they may communicate with each other in a one way bridge or two way bridge scenario.

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28. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the member administrator may select one of the first functions (Quit) to adjourn the conference after the selected certain other members as conference participants have vacated the conference room.

29. (original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:
connecting to a server by the member to join a conference room using one or more commands;
waiting for a member administrator to select the member and commence communication in the conference room so that the selected member is a conference participant by using one or more commands; and
engaging in conversation in the conference room which is comprised of the selected member and member administrator as conference participants using one or more commands.

30. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the commands are graphical user interface (GUI) commands.

31. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the step of connecting allows the member to use a first set dialing function and first set tertiary functions (Phone, Location, IP Address) to access first set tertiary function first elements public branch exchange (PBX) or voice internet protocol (VoIP) Gateway.

32. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the step of waiting consists of the member waiting for the member administrator to select the member and a first set secondary function (Room Commence) to allow communication between the selected member and member administrator as conference participants.

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33. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein the member and selected member has first set functions (Mute, Whisper, Dial, Create Table, Create Avatar, Quit) available.

34. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the selected member may select one of the first set functions (Mute) to mute the selected member, whereas other selected members and member administrator as conference participants will not be able to hear the selected member but the selected member will be able to hear the other selected members and member administrator as conference participants.

35. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the selected member may select one of the first set functions (Whisper) to whisper to another selected member or member administrator, whereas the selected member and the another selected member or member administrator will be able to communicate with each other without other selected members as conference participants hearing them.

36. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the dialing function is a first set function (Dial) that allows the member and selected member to connect to first set tertiary functions (Phone, Location, IP Address) to access first set tertiary function first elements public branch exchange (PBX) or voice internet protocol (VoIP) Gateway.

37. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the selected member may select one of the first set functions (Create Table) in order to create a table and select itself and another selected member or member administrator as conference participant to invite the another

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selected member or member administrator as conference participant to a table session discussion.

38. (original) The method of claim 37, wherein the another selected member or member administrator may accept, deny, or block the invitation from the selected member to a table session discussion.

39. (original) The method of claim 38, wherein when the another selected member accepts the table invitation, the selected member and another selected member or member administrator may communicate between themselves in the separate table discussion and no other selected members as conference participants in the conference can hear the selected member and the another selected member or member administrator and the another selected member or member administrator and selected member cannot hear the conference.

40. (original) The method of claim 38, wherein when the another selected member or member administrator accepts the table invitation, the selected member and another selected member or member administrator can communicate between themselves in the separate table discussion and no other selected members as conference participants in the conference can hear the selected member and another selected member or member administrator but the another selected member or member administrator and selected member can hear and communicate with the conference.

41. (original) The method of claim 38, wherein when the another selected member or member administrator denies when invited to the table session, the selected member is notified of such denial and the another selected member or member administrator is not

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entered in the table session discussion.

42. (original) The method of claim 38, wherein when the another selected member or member administrator blocks when invited to the table session, the selected member is notified of such block and is blocked, until unblocked by the another selected member or member administrator, from sending table invites to the another selected member or member administrator and the another selected member or member administrator is not entered in the table session discussion.

43. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the selected member may select one of the first set functions (Create Avatar) to create an avatar conference where an incarnation of the selected member will reside as administrator in the avatar conference, with all the capabilities the member administrator has in the conference, with the addition of a bridge function which may bridge the avatar conference with the conference.

44. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein the bridge function consists of one way bridge, two way bridge and amway bridge.

45. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein the one way bridge allows the selected member and other selected members as conference participants in the avatar conference to hear all selected members as conference participants of the conference.

46. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein the one way bridge allows the selected member and other selected members as conference participants of the conference to hear all selected members as conference participants in the avatar conference.

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47. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein the two way bridge allows the selected member and other selected members as conference participants of the avatar conference and the selected member and selected members as conference participants of the conference to hear each other.

48. (previously amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the amway bridge allows the selected member to choose selected members as conference participants from the avatar conference and choose selected members as conference participants from the conference in order that they may communicate with each other in a one way bridge or two way bridge scenario.

49. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the selected member may quit at any time, such that afterwards, the selected member will not be a conference participant and not able to communicate with other selected members as conference participants.

50. (currently amended) A system for providing enhanced conferencing control features in an Internet-based conference solution, comprising:

a client network; and
a service provider network, wherein the client network transmits to the service provider network connection information and a function request, further characterized in that the service provider network operates on the connection information and function request to perform a specific operation, wherein the specific operation includes allowing Whisper functionality, Create Table functionality, and Create Avatar functionality to be performed, wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference

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being conducted simultaneously with the conference, wherein participants of the Avatar conference are must be a subset of participants in the conference, and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference.

51. (original) The system of claim 50, wherein the connection information and function request is transmitted between the client network and the service provider network over a wide area network.

52. (original) The system of claim 51, wherein the wide area network is a public internet.

53. (original) The system of claim 52, wherein the connection information and function request is transmitted over a computer telephone integration (CTI) link and public branch exchange (PBX).

54. (original) The system of claim 53, wherein the connection information and function request is transmitted over at least part of the client provider network on a serial link.

55. (original) The system of claim 54, wherein the connection information and function request is transmitted over at least part of the service provider network on a serial link.

56. (currently amended) A system for providing enhanced conferencing control features in an Internet-based conference solution, comprising:

a client network; and

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a service provider network, wherein the client network transmits to the service provider network connection information or a function request, further characterized in that the service provider network operates on the connection information or function request to perform a specific operation, wherein the specific operation includes allowing a Table conference session and an Avatar conference session to be implemented, wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference, wherein participants of the Avatar conference are must be a subset of participants in the conference, and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference.

57. (original) The system of claim 56, wherein the connection information and function request is transmitted between the client network and the service provider network over a wide area network.

58. (original) The system of claim 57, wherein the wide area network is a public internet.

59. (original) The system of claim 58, wherein the connection information is transmitted over a network layer and central server.

60. (original) The system of claim 59, wherein the function request is transmitted over a computer telephone integration (CTI) link and voice internet protocol (VoIP) Gateway.

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61. (original) The system of claim 60, wherein the connection information and function request is transmitted over at least part of the client provider network on a serial link.

62. (original) The system of claim 61, wherein the connection information and function request is transmitted over at least part of the service provider network on a serial link.

63. (currently amended) A system for providing enhanced conferencing control features in an Internet-based conference solution, comprising:

- a client network comprising:
- a controller for generating connection information and function request;
- an interface for receiving and operating on the connection information and function request;
- an application programming interface (API) for controlling hardware; and
- a computer telephony integration (CTI) unit for hosting software that communicates with the hardware; and
- a service provider network comprising:
- a conference server for receiving and executing the connection information and function request for allowing Whisper functionality, Create Table functionality, and Create Avatar functionality to be performed, wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference, wherein participants of the Avatar conference ~~are~~ must be a subset of participants in the conference, and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference; and

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a wide area network coupling the client network to the service provider network for
allowing communication between the client network and the service provider network.

64. (original) The system of claim 63, wherein the controller is a computer unit.
65. (original) The system of claim 63, wherein the interface is an interface card and computer program running on a computer unit.
66. (original) The system of claim 63, wherein the API and CTI are computer programs running on a computer unit.
67. (original) The system of claim 63, wherein the conference server transmits data to the client network.
68. (original) The system of claim 63, wherein the wide area network is a public internet.
69. (original) The system of claim 63 further comprising a protocol converter coupled to the call management unit for converting between a first transmission format and a second transmission format.
70. (original) The system of claim 63 further comprising a public branch exchange and voice internet protocol (VoIP) gateway coupled to the client network and service provider network for transmitting signals between the client network and service provider network.

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71. (currently amended) In a system including a client network coupled to a service provider network over a wide area network, a method for providing enhanced conferencing control features in an Internet-based conference solution, comprising the steps of:

generating at the client network connection information and a function request to control a conference;

transmitting to the service provider network the connection information and function request;

authorizing at the service provider network the client network connection information;

signaling the authorization information back to the client network; and
allowing at least one of a Table conference session and an Avatar conference session to be created via the client network in response to successfully authorizing the client network connection information, wherein said Create Avatar functionality includes facilitating creation of an avatar conference being conducted simultaneously with the conference, wherein participants of the Avatar conference are must be a subset of participants in the conference, and wherein an incarnation of the member administrator resides as the administrator in the avatar conference with all the capabilities that the member administrator has in the conference in addition of a bridge function that can selectively bridge the avatar conference with the conference.

72. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising barring the function request at the service provider network.

73. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising implementing the function request at the service provider network.

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74. (original) The method of claim 73, wherein the step of transmitting the connection information and function request comprises the step of transmitting the connection information and a function request over a public branch exchange (PBX).

75. (original) The method of claim 73, wherein the step of transmitting the connection information comprises the step of transmitting the connection information over a network layer and central server.

76. (original) The method of claim 75, wherein the step of transmitting the function request comprises the step of transmitting the function request over a voice internet protocol (VoIP) gateway.

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